

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-10

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 211583 TOSEC 110012

USUN FOR SISCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, UNESCO, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI POSITION ON U. S. EUROPEAN REGIONAL
GROUP INITIATIVE AT UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD

REFS: A) STATE 208795; B) PARIS 22585; C) BRUSSELS
7857; D) BRUSSELS 7798

1. TEL AVIV SHOULD NOT EXECUTE PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF
EXCUTE SIGNAL FROM UNDER SEC. SISCO. YOU SHOULD CALL AT
FOREIGN MINISTRY AT APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL TO DISCUSS
REPORTED ISRAELI POSITION (REFTELS B AND C) ON U. S.
INITIATIVE AT UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD (EX BD) (REFTEL A).
YOU MAY INFORM MFA THAT WE HAVE HEARD THROUGH PARIS AND
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BRUSSELS THAT ISRAELIS MADE A DEMARCHE IN BRUSSELS FLATLY

OPPOSING ANY CORRECTIVE ACTION AT UNESCO WHICH MIGHT INFLUENCE U. S. CONGRESS TO CHANGE ITS POSITION ON UNESCO FUNDING. YOU SHOULD SEEK CLARIFICATION OF ISRAELI POSITION ON THIS ISSUE, NOTING DEPARTMENT'S SURPRISE AT ISRAELI OPPOSITION TO U. S. INITIATIVE AND THEIR GOING TO BRUSSELS BEFORE DISCUSSING MATTER WITH US.

2. YOU SHOULD TELL GOI WE BELIEVE THAT IN VIEW OF MANDATE FROM CONGRESS AND IN VIEW OF ISRAEL'S PUBLIC POSITION IN FAVOR OF ITS ADMISSION TO EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP (ERG), IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO INITIATE SOME ACTION AT EX BD MEETING TO PAVE THE WAY FOR ISRAEL'S EVENTUAL ADMISSION TO THE ERG. CERTAINLY, IMPRESSION WE HAD WAS THAT, AFTER INITIAL RELUCTANCE, ADMISSION TO ERG WAS WHAT GOI DESIRED; WE HAVE HAD NO SIGNALS TO ANY OTHER EFFECT. ACCORDINGLY WE HAD BEGUN TO PAVE WAY FOR THIS RESULT. OUR PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGING AND WE THEREFORE HAD HOPED THAT IN THIS WAY WE COULD BEGIN TO MEET ONE OF CONGRESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS IN ORDER THAT U. S. FUNDING TO UNESCO COULD AT LEAST BE PARTIALLY RESUMED AND THAT WE WOULD NOT LOSE OUR VOTE JANUARY 1976, WHICH WILL BE THE CASE IF SOME FUNDING IS NOT RESTORED. FROM BROADER U. S. VIEWPOINT AND IN ORDER TO DEFEND OUR INTEREST IN UNESCO WE CONSIDER RETENTION OF OUR VOTE VERY IMPORTANT. FYI :WE HAVE BEEN STRONGLY URGED TO DO SOMETHING OF THIS KIND BY AMERICAN JEWISH GROUPS, THE INTELLECTUAL AND SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY, AND BY THE OFFICES OF SENATOR CASE AND REPRESENTATIVE BINGHAM. BOTH BINGHAM'S AND CASE'S ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS TOLD US THAT IF THE EX BD WERE WILLING TO TAKE SOME AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PAVING THE WAY FOR ISRAEL'S EVENTUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE ERG, CONGRESS MIGHT BE WILLING TO AT LEAST APPROPRIATE ENOUGH MONEY ON OUR UNESCO DUES TO ALLOW US TO AVOID LOSING OUR VOTE. END FYI. THOUGH THIS ACTION CLEARLY IN U.S. INTEREST, WE FEEL INITIATIVE WILL ALSO BE OF BENEFIT TO ISRAEL AS ONE STEP IN REVERSING TREND OF ISOLATION OF ISRAEL IN UN BODIES.

3. FYI: OPPOSITION TO PARTIAL MEASURES TO REPAIR ISRAEL'S POSITION AT UNESCO RETURNS ISRAEL TO NEGATIVE
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POSITION IT HAD TAKEN AT BEGINNING OF YEAR AFTER PASSAGE OF CASE-BINGHAM AMENDMENT. IN JANUARY WHEN WE WERE DISCUSSING WITH OUR FRIENDS HOW WE MIGHT GET THE UNESCO EX BD TO URGE THE GENERAL CONFERENCE TO CORRECT THE ANTI-ISRAELI MEASURES, MINISTER SHALEV OF ISRAELI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ASKED THAT THE U. S. EXECUTIVE BRANCH TAKE NO STEPS TO CORRECT THE ANTI-ISRAELI ACTIONS OF THE UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE BECAUSE ISRAEL PREFERRED TO HAVE THE

CONGRESSIONAL CUTOFF OF FUNDS TO UNESCO STAND AS A SOLEMN WARNING TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS NOT TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL. AT THE SAME TIME WE WERE UNDER PARADOXICALLY STRONG PRESSURES FROM AMERICAN JEWISH GROUPS TO ACT. THE ISRAELI EMBASSY, RECOGNIZING THIS CONFLICT, NEVERTHELESS REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE TO THESE GROUPS THAT IT HAD AS(ED US TO REFRAIN FROM ANY ACTION. HOWEVER, JUST PRIOR TO THE MARCH MEETING OF THE EX BD, SHALEV INFORMED US THAT ISRAEL WAS NOW WILLING FOR US TO MOVE AHEAD. THE REPORTS OF THE ISRAELI DEMARCHES IN BRUSSELS ON SEPTEMBER 3 ARE THE FIRST INDICATION THAT ISRAEL HAS REVERTED TO ITS EARLIER POSITION. END FYI.

4. IF MFA STATES THAT GOI IS OPPOSED TO U.S. INITIATIVE, YOU SHOULD ASK THEM TO RECONSIDER THEIR POSITION POINTING OUT THAT EVEN TOTAL SUCCESS OF OUR INITIATIVE COULD NOT RESULT IN THE TOTAL LIFTING OF THE CONGRESSIONAL SUSPENSION OF THE U. S. CONTRIBUTION TO UNESCO SINCE THE EX BD ACTION WILL A) NOT BE FINAL, AND B) WOULD ONLY CORRECT PART OF THE PROBLEM WHICH CONGRESS ADRESSED. YOU SHOULD INDICATE THAT IF ISRAEL DECLINES TO CONCUR THAT WE WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER OUR OWN INTEREST IN GOING AHEAD WITH OUR INITIATIVE UNLESS THE GOI IS READY TO STATE PUBLICLY THAT IT NO LONGER SEEKS MEMBERSHIP IN UNESCO'S ERG. YOU MAY ALSO STATE THAT IF THEY PERSIST IN THEIR OPPOSITION WE WILL NECESSARILY HAVE TO MAKE THEIR POSITION KNOWN TO AMERICAN GROUPS SEEKING TO HAVE US TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN UNESCO IN REVERSING ITS ANTI-ISRAELI ACTIONS. ROBINSON

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